

GUIDE TO  
AGRA

BY

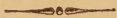
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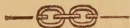
GUIDE

TO

A G R A

BY

NUTHOO RAM & SONS



AGRA

1893.

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## FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

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## PREFACE.

It would be down-right presumption on our part to even attempt to publish a "Guide to Agra," as the title of this little brochure denotes, for learned Authors as Mr. Keine and others have already exhaustively done so. Our humble object in publishing this is simply threefold.

1st—That Tourists on alighting from the Railway carriage, on being presented with one of these Guides, will by a cursory Glance over its contents become acquainted with places of interest and worth seeing in Agra.

2nd—That instead of being Guided by the coachman and others, who will follow them they will be able to guide and dictate their movements.

3rd—That after seeing the places of note, they will know, where the Mosaic works of beauty and elegant designs noted for cheapness can be procured, *i. e.* at our shop named "*Nathooram & Sons*," also where the shop is situated, and what are our terms. If these objects are attained we shall be thoroughly repaid, for the trouble we have taken.

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# AGRA.



AGRA is one of the oldest, principal and celebrated cities of India, because it was the capital of India under the Moghul dynasty and was founded by Akbar the great in 1506 who named it after his own name "Akburabad" *i. e.*, "built by Akbur." It is situated on the right bank of the river Jumna, and has always been conspicuous for its social, political and Artistic tastes and edifices, and is next to Delhi and Lucknow in its varied fashions, and Urdu dialect in speech observed by the fashionable and well-educated Natives in preference to the other cities of the N. W. P.

It has a well-fortified Fort with extensive bastions of red sandstone and was

built during the latest part of the 16th century, it is on an irregular form, but having for its general outline the sides of a scalene triangle, the base of which, about five furlongs in length extends along the river. The south-western side is slightly concave towards the interior and is about 3 furlongs in length, the north-western side is in like manner concave towards the interior and is about 2 furlongs in length. The circuit extends a mile. It contains many magnificent edifices, and will be found described fully as we go on.

First and foremost is the Taj, considered to be one of the 7 wonders of the world and is and has been acknowledged generally to be the most elegant, sublime, and grandest piece of architectural workmanship that human skill could have designed and executed with stone.

The next is Etmad-ood-Dowlah, a Mausoleum built on the left Bank of the river

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Jumna, and is about a league to the North of the Pontoon Bridge.

Lastly stands Secundra, the last resting place of Akbar and of other Members of the Royal family about five miles from the Fort on the road to Muthra.

Besides the above royal buildings the city itself is very capacious and has a stone pavement through its entire length, and possesses some beautiful and elegantly built private residences of the natives, 2, 3 and 4 stories high in the building of which red sand stone and pucca bricks with chunam mortar has been chiefly used.

Besides the Government offices, in the Civil Lines in particular the Cantonment abounds with extensive accommodation in the shape of Barracks for the European and Native Troops, both of Infantry as well as Artillery, and numerous substantially built Merchants' shops and Pucca Kothees and

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thatched Bungalows of private gentlemen. The European British Officers, can be seen to advantage on the broad, well-kinkured roads lined on both sides with large forest trees during the morning and evening drives which Gents visiting Agra generally undertake from the following commodious and comfortable houses of accommodation.

1. Lauries Hotel.
2. Northbrook Hotel.
3. Metropole Hotel.
4. Empress Hotel.
5. Dawk Bungalow.
6. Agra Civilian and Military Club.

### **GUIDES IN THE ABOVE HOTELS.**

1. Gobind Ram.
2. Amir Khan.
3. Karam Alahi.
4. Moorli Dhar.
5. Husen Buksh.
6. Ala Buksh,
7. Hoolasi, guide for natives.

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There are also 2 principal Banks in Cantonments.

1. The Bank of Bengal.
2. The Agra Bank.

A drive through the Government Garden in Cantonment, which is kept up with great care, and abounds with beautiful Fruit and Forest Trees, and Shrubs and Flowers, and in which the Band plays on every Friday evening at 4 P. M. is worth while the trouble.

The following places of worship also exist in the station.

1. Roman Catholic Cathedral in Civil Lines connected with which is St. Peter's College, St. Pauls schools and Orphanage and The convent.
2. Roman Catholic Church in Cantonments.
3. St. Paul's Protestant Church in Civil Lines.
4. St. Georges Protestant Church in Cantonments.

5. Havelock's Baptist Chapel in Cantonments.
6. St. John's Protestant Church in the city.
7. Methodist Church, facing the Agra Collector's Office.

The "Thompson Hospital for the poor, and old and the Lady Dufferin's Hospitals &c. lately constructed on the road leading from the Agra College and extending along range of very pretty buildings also deserve to be seen and admired.

The following places on the right Banks of the Jumna are worthy of being seen and appreciated.

- |                                                   |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ice Factory of A. John & Co.                   | } In Bay-lun gunj Agra. |
| 2. Cotton Press of ditto.                         |                         |
| 3. ditto of West & Co.                            |                         |
| 4. ditto of Gilmore & Co.                         |                         |
| 5. Cotton Mills of A. John and Co.                |                         |
| 6. Stuart's Tannery on the other side of the Taj. |                         |

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## THE FORT ACRA.

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Next to the Taj the first building in Agra which attracts attention is the Fort which lies on the west bank of the river Jumna and to the south-east of the city. The visitor is at a glance struck with the grandeur presented by its high sand-stone walls and ramparts rising about 76 feet above the pucca ditch which runs all around the Fort except on the Jumna side where before the eventful Famine of 1838, the river flew. But during the Famine to give employment to the numerous famine afflicted poor a pucca metalled road was constructed which is a shorter cut by the Taj from the city, and passing over it a full view of the Taj, the Iron Railway Bridge and the river Jumna itself can be obtained. There are four huge sand-stone gates leading to the interior, two of which, the Amar Singh and the Dehli gate, are now being used, the other two having been permanently closed. Egress

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and ingress for carriges and visitors is generally through the Dehli gate, because the slope of the Amar Singh gate stone pavement puts a greater strain on the horses. The difficulty therefore in drawing the carriages up the slope is very inconvenient. We shall begin our description therefore from the Delhi-gate. There is a draw-bridge over the ditch leading to the gate, a little farther off from this there is another gate higher than the front gate. On the right and side of the second gate there is a stair-case leading to the roof of the gate from which visitors can admire the views of the other remarkable buildings and of the city. There are two octagonal domes on the two sides and veneret (Nacquaras) *i. e.* Huge Drums, which used to be sounded in olden times, to proclaim an alarm.

From thence the Visitor is led to the Pearl Mosque (Moti Musjid). This beautiful Musjid was built by the Emperor Shah Jehan whose artistic taste is manifest from the beauty

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of the Mosque itself, being entirely made of marble on a sand-stone platform. The length of the Mosque is about 142 feet and the length from the Mosque to the gateway is about 100 feet. From the Inscription on the front of the Mosque it can be ascertained that it was built by Shah Jehan in 1063 Hijri or in 1654 A. D.

The Mosque itself consists of three large marble domes in the centre, seven small and square domes in the front and four octagonal domes on the four corners. All the pinnacles of these domes are gilded with gold. The interior saloon is divided by rows of pillars into three aisles, the arches above the pillars being arched. There are altogether eighteen square pillars. In the Mosque there are five hundred and seventy *Musallas* for males and forty five on each side for females, the latter being surrounded with marble screens with the view of screening the privacy of the

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females from males. Each Musalla is bounded by Khuttoo-stone (red) lines (Musalla means sufficient space for a man to stand upon whilst praying). There are two stair cases, one being in each Zenana Musalla apartment leading to the roof. Two other stair-cases are in the gateway. On the North, South and East sides there are marble galleries each having a door in the middle. The door on the east side only is being used, the other two being closed. On the north and south doors there are six domes, three being on each side. On the entrance door again there are three domes and two other domes on the front corners.

There is a marble reservoir of water in the Middle before the main building, for the use of ablution before Prayers. In the outer wall which is of red sand stone, there is a gallery all round which is of the same stone. The Mosaics and the colors interwoven with each other present a very beauti-

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ful and striking appearance. In short the building as a whole has few its equals in the exquisiteness of the structure and is really a pearl in marble as its name denotes.

The next thing to be seen after seeing the Moti Masjid is the Mina-Bazar which was used by the Ladies of the Emperors zenana as a market. This building is entirely made of red sand-stone having a gallery all round, on the Southern gallery there being a marble seat for the ladies who were fortunate enough to hold exalted positions. When one stands with his face towards the seat of the ladies, he will perceive another small mosque on the gallery towards his right hand side which is called the Nagina Musjid.

In the north east corner of the court yard of the Mina-bazar there is a way leading to another building of red-sand-stone which was used by the Rajas of Bharatpore as a Hindu temple when Agra was one of the provinces of Bharatpore. This temple has a court yard

in the middle with sand-stone galleries all round. It is now in a delapidated state as well as the Mina bazar. In the Mina-bazar there is a large gateway towards the South which leads to another court-yard which will be described hereafter and which is opposite to Machi-Bhawan.

The next thing to be seen is the (Public Hall of audience) Devan-Am, the interior of which is about 235 feet by 172. The roof of this building is supported by calonades which present a very beautiful appearance. The pillars of the arched doors are exquisitely marked with plated golden lines. Before the mutiny it was used by the military as a store room for arms and was called the "Armoury square".

The three arched gallery, in the Diwan-Am is inlaid with Blood-stone, Cornilion, Agates etc. of elegant patterns, having niches in the walls all round and Mosaic work in the roof; below this gallery there is

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the seat of the Vazir (Prime Minister) cut out of one piece of marble with pedastel before it.

On the left hand side there is a stair-case which leads to the upper gallery made of sand-stone having arched door. When one stands in this gallery with his face towards the Jumna, his attention will be drawn to the North-West corner where a Mosque of white marble very beautifully constructed stands called the Nagina-Masjid, a hint of which has been given before. The platform of this mosque is made of white and black marble square pieces in chess shape. It has three marble domes on the roof having pinnacles plated with gold. Some lines from the Kuran are inlaid with black marble. This was supposed to be the private place of devotion of the Emperors. In the middle of the Southern gallery there is an inlaid marble seat or throne for the Emperor, from where he amused himself in fishing in the cistern situated in the middle of the court, below which is about

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500 feet by 371, and its removal to Dig by Raja Sooruj Mul Raja of Bhurtpoor when Agra was in the power of the Jats is memorable. In the South-east corner of the gallery there is a Zenana Musjid entirely made of marble, which was used by the Ladies of the Emperors Harem; close to this there is a court of the Emperor (called the Diwan Khas) facing towards the North, being 208 feet by 76 and supported by three ranges of arcades. This court is magnificently inlaid with different kinds of precious stones giving a very beautiful, brilliant and imposing appearance. In the middle is the throne of the Emperor whence he dispensed justice to his subjects. Before it there is a platform of mortar on which is a throne of black marble, cut out in one piece towards the east which is said to have been used by the Emperor when he witnessed the fight of the elephants, lions &c. below.

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The stone is slit. There is a legend connected with it that when the Mahrattas conquered Agra, and when their commander attempted to sit in state on the throne the stone cracked and blood commenced flowing from it, owing to the sanctity of the Emperor's Throne having been violated.

Opposite to this is the white marble throne of Beerbul (one of the Prime Ministers). To the North of this court there are several bath rooms: on coming down by the South-eastern staircase the visitor must proceed to witness the Summon Burj. This is exquisitely made of marble and was the favourite place of the Sultana. In the centre of it is a fountain 11 feet  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 8 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches which was used by rose water. It is inlaid with mosaic works. A model of this fountain measuring 2 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  long and 1 foot  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad was made by us in 1888 by order of J. Bonham Carter Esq. Adhurst St. Mary Petersfield

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Hampshire England for Rs. 875. It commands a very beautiful view of the river and the Taj. To the south [of the Summun Burj is the Jessamine Tower in oblong shape. The Boorj or Dome as well as the pinnacles are covered with copper-plate coated with gold. To the south of the Jessamine Tower is the Khas Mahel or the private drawing room of the Emperor. The ceiling and walls of this small palace were decorated with golden work in a variety of exquisite designs, a specimen of which is now to be seen in the North-east corner of the roof. This specimen was specially renovated for the visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in January 1876. Near the Khas Mahal some pillars, pillar-stands and brackets were excavated from beneath the ground. They were all repaired at our firm and were afterwards sent to London to be shown in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886. Each bracket weighed about 3 tons. The Khas Mahal is entirely made

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of marble with five doors in front, three on either side and openings in the marble screens commanding the view of the river. In the centre of the platform attached to it is a reservoir having five fountains in the middle and 32 in the sides. In the courtyard before the Khas Mahal is a beautiful garden having two marble cause-ways intersecting each other. It was formerly a vineyard very artistically planned and specially made for the Sultana. It is called the Angoori Bagh. In the north-east corner of the Garden is the Queen's Bath called Sheesh Mahal. This palace is divided into two parts with a reservoir of water in each of them. The walls and ceilings are all covered with small pieces of mirrors very beautifully and intricately set in. Adjoining the Khas Mahal and to the south are the apartments which were the principal quarters of the Emperor Shah Jehan. The Golden work about one yard high from the ground may still be seen on the walls of these apartments. In one

of these which is to the west are placed the high sandal-wood gates of Som Nath (12 feet by 9 feet). These were taken to Gazni by Sultan Mahmood Gaznavi in his ninth invasion of India from the Temple of Som Nath. They were brought back from Guzni in 1842 to Agra by the army of retribution commanded by General Pollock as a Trophy in the time of Lord Ellenborough and placed in the Fort. To the east of this Mahal, which was for sometime used as a Musuem-hall, is another dome in octagonal shape called Athkhamba. Formerly it was painted with gold, but now it is in ruins. There is another large red sand-stone building in ruins called Jahangiri Mahal (Jahangir Emperor's mehal) in the south-west corner of this palace. It has a court-yard in the middle with galleries on all four sides, that to the west being two storied. The building and the brackets used therein are made after the Hindu style of architecture. On the roof of this ruined

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palace are several cisterns in which water from the Jamna was raised and stored and from whence it was supplied to the various parts of the palace by means of copper pumps for the use of the Gardens, and drinking purposes.

In front of the Khas Mahal is a little stair-case leading to a labyrinth of buildings below, formerly used as a place for the execution of criminals. Below the gallows there was a well which had communication with the river so that the remains were washed away in the river. Over this well there is a well-carved log of wood formerly used for hanging criminals. It is rumoured that three under-ground passages from this labyrinth lead to the Taj, Secandra, and Fatehpore Seekri. The other entrance to this labyrinth is in the east of the Angoori bagh below the platform of the Khas Mahal.

## THE SECANDRA.



**T**he next building worth seeing is Secandra situated on the Muthra Road nearly 5 miles from the Pontoon-bridge. In the way of the visitor returning from the Fort and passing by the Drummond road lies our Firm which will, we hope, repay the visitor for the trouble he will undertake to visit it. It is situated near the Agra College. After passing Delhi gate the visitor will have the District Jail on one side, the Lunatic Asylum on the other. He will have several ruined monuments on both sides. Close to Secandra will be seen at the right hand side a well preserved sand-stone building of the time of the Emperor Jahangeer. Then the visitor will reach Secandra. It has a huge gateway 132 feet long and 101 feet broad, in the front having four very high minarates on the corners, the upper stories of which

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were pulled down to some extent in 1803, by order of Lord Lake as some European soldiers fell down from them.

A cause-way 94 feet broad and 515 feet long leads the visitor to the reservoir, the dimensions of which are  $170 \times 170$  feet having five fountains about 5 feet high in the middle. Another causeway 94 feet broad and 335 feet long leads the visitors to the front platform (63 feet broad) of the mausoleum. This platform adjoins the building on all the sides and has four cisterns of water 26 feet long and 20 feet broad having five fountains in each.

This main building, which is five storied is  $272 \times 272$  feet.

The gallery of the first story contains forty arched openings and four huge gates ; eleven being on each side and are built of lime mortar, but the huge four gates are made of red sand-stone. On the four corners are four little octagonal domes.

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The second story is built of sandstone and has twenty-three arched openings on every side.

There are sixteen square domes four being on every side with one *Naquarkhana* (the place at the porch of a palace where drums are beaten at stated intervals) in the middle.

In the third story 108×108 feet there are forty-two arched openings, thirteen being on every side with two square domes on every corner.

In the fourth story 105×105 feet which is also of sandstone, there are forty-four arched openings, eleven being on every side. The fifth story is entirely built of white marble with a square space 48×48 feet in the middle surrounded by forty-four marble screens, eleven being on every side. In this enclosed space there is a raised platform 36×36 feet having an imitation tomb of the Emperor on it.

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The length of the outer wall is 2,400 feet and the breadth 2,300.

There was a very beautiful and spacious garden in olden times around the main building, but now it is neglected and in ruins.

There are huge gateways on the four sides, three being shut in these days and which have causeways leading to the mausoleum. Each gateway is about 70 feet high. The mausoleum which is square is about 100 feet high. In the centre is the burial place of the Emperor Akbar. The inscription on the Tomb is by the Persian poet Faizi. The inscription shows that Akbar took the reins of governing in 962 Hijri and died in 1014 Hijri after a reign of 52 years. Round the Sepulchre are galleries of lime mortar. On both sides in the upper corner of the screens of the upper story the sacred word God or "Allah" is

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engraved in the middle of a flower in the Arabic character.

The flooring of the court-yard of the upper story is made in chess-shape and consists of different kinds of Indian stones such as Dalchua, Abri, Khattoo etc. Standing in the upper gallery one can have a very beautiful view of the river in the north. All the principal buildings of Agra are to be seen from here.

This mausoleum was built in 1614. There are two versions as regards the history of its name. Some say that it is taken from the name of Alexander while others say that it is derived from that of Sekander Lodi.

The specimens of all the work in the screens and in other parts can be got from our Firm. Here we close our description of this building.

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## THE ETMAD-UD-DOWLA.



Not far from the pontoon-bridge and on the other side of the river Jumna to the left is the mausoleum of Khwaja Aeias called Etmad-ud-dowla.

This is the burial place of Ghias-ud-din (Khwaja Aeias) father of Noor Jehan which after his title is called Etmad-ud-dowla. It is a very fine marble building in the midst of the garden surrounded by walls and palaces.

This garden is well-kept stocked with flowers, shrubs, cypress, trees &c. This building is a fantastic combination of Hindu and Mugal Architecture, although it is built of white marble with inlaid Mosiac work. It stands on a sand-stone plinth 148 feet 2 inches square with a height of 3 feet 4 inches. There are four reservoirs one on

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each side having 5 fountains in each, the diamensions of one reservoir being 23 feet 10 inches in length, 15 feet 11 inches in breadth and four feet in depth. This platform is 39 feet broad all round the mausoleum. Its size being only 43 feet 6 inches in length, but its terraced roof is surmounted by four domes and a pavilion which make the total height of 47 feet. The inscription in the hall where the real tombs are situated are taken from the *Suras* of Kooran. The upper Kiosk containing the tomb of Khwaja Aeias and his wife is surrounded by the marble screens. They are carved and cut so delectately that they resembles the finest lace. The tombs are made of Khattoo-stone cut into one piece. The diamensions of the tombs are 6 feet 3 inches in length, 1 foot 11 inches in breadth and 11 inches in height.

The engraving will give the visitor some idea of the marvellous style of archi-

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tecture of those days. This mausoleum was erected in 1628 by the Emperor Jahangir, over the tomb of his father-in-law who died in 1622. Khwaja Aeias was a native of Tartary which he left to seek his fortune at the court of Akbar. Being poor he had to perform the journey on foot. In the way a daughter was born to him whom he named Noor Mahal.

His intellects soon attracted the attention of Akbar who made him the Director of Finances and took his daughter in marriage.

The best specimens of the marble screens attached to this building and the model of this very neatly executed can be supplied from our Firm at moderate charges.

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## THE TAJ.



**T**he Taj, one of the seven wonders of the world, is the most beautiful, grand and sublime edifice at Agra. It is situated on the right bank of the river Jamna.

Shah Jehan, being bound by the dying request of the Empress Mumtaz-Mahal and inspired by a most intense love for her and admiration for her talents, resolved to immortalize her name by building this most beautiful monument.

Momtaz-Mahal was the daughter of Asiff Khan and grand-daughter of Ehat-Mad-dowla.

She was aged 20 years when married to Shah Jehan, and 29 years old at the time of her death. When she died she was the mother of 4 Princes, Dara-Shekoh, Shah-Shuja, Aurangzeb and Alamgir, and of 3 Princesses, Jehanara-Begam, Gohar-Ara-Begam and Roshau-Ara-Begam.

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The visitors will find a huge sand-stone gate which leads to the front of the Taj on entering it and riding a few paces further he will find himself just before the Entrance Gate to the Taj on the left side. Before this gate is a maidan covered over with green turfs of grass and surrounded by lofty walls and arched galleries which used to serve as Caravan-serais.

On the north-side of this maidan and facing the Entrance Gate of the Taj is another gate of red sand-stone which leads to the suburb of Tajganj.

Tajganj in proportion is equal to a little town.

The Entrance gate of the Taj is a huge architecture built of red sand-stone. The whole of the gate is a square building having four domes on the four corners and eleven small domes and two small minarets on the gateway. Answering to these domes and minarets there are eleven domes and

two minaretes on the opposite side. The interior side of the roof of this gate is a hollow concavity which echoes to the sound of a man.

When the visitor has crossed the gate he will find himself at the end of an avenue of cypress trees. Between the two rows of the Cypress trees are two pathways paved with sand-stone and having a water canal with fountains between them.

In the middle of the main building and the gate is a marble reservoir of water on a raised platform of marble, containing five marble fountains. This platform with the reservoir sets the beauty of the garden in full relief. There are two three-storing building of red sandstone facing each other on the east and west side of the reservoir and adjoining the outer walls.

From the reservoir another avenue of Cypress trees, with the pathways and the water canal containing fountains, runs to the main building.

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At the end of this long avenue runs a flight of steps to the lower platform of the Taj which is inlaid with flower-shaped marble pieces into the sand-stone ground. This platform stands all around the building, on its west side stands a mosque built of red sand-stone and surmounted by three domes of marble. Underneath the third dome to the south there is a well, access to the water of which can be had by means of steps. Between the main building of the Taj and this mosque there is a reservoir of water made of sand-stone and having five fountains.

To the east of the Taj there is another building which is also made of red sand-stone with three domes on the top and which is generally called the Response to the Mosque (Muckabla), serving no purpose whatever but only giving balance and symmetry to the whole building. On the platform, attached to the Response building, there is a faithful representation in natural size of the pinnacle

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of the principal Taj dome which is 30 feet 6 inches and the thickness of the base 8 feet 10 inches and the diameter of the crescent is 5 feet 4½ inches. This representation is axtant on the left as the visitor faces the Response (Muckabla).

It has been inlaid on the platform with black-stone by us in 1888.

The railings on the Jamna side of the platform are of red sand-stone. The base of this platform on the back-side was continually washed by the currents of the Jamna. The visitor when standing on the Jamna side of the platform can have a very fine view of the Jamna, running just at the base of the building, of the Fort, across the stand Road of the Railway Bridge, and of the city. On turning his face towards the east he has a view of the Stewart Tannery Factory which is recently built. On the other bank of the Jamna are to be seen the foundations an uncompleted of another building.

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It is believed that Shah Jehan had intended to have this building built after the model of the Taj as a response to it and to connect the two by means of a bridge over the river. But on account of his dethronement by his son Aurungzeb and his captivity in the fort he could not practically realize his resolution.

On the river-side of the platform is an under-ground passage to the river Jamna, having two openings in the platform. It is generally believed that there was another under-ground passage from the Taj to the Fort but no trace of it is to be found anywhere. The length of this platform is 960 feet, and breadth 330 feet.

In the middle of this lower base is erected another square platform which is entirely made up of white marble and which is nearly 18 feet high, each side being about 275 feet.

*See back of the title page.*

There is also a stair-case leading to this platform and is made up of white marble.

At each corner is a minerate of white marble; the first story of the minerate is 36 feet 3 inches, the second 37 feet 3 inches, the third 41 feet; the dome 25 feet 3 inches and the pinnacle 5 feet 6 inches. Thus the total height is 145 feet 3 inches and the thickness or circumference being 19 feet 6 inches.

In the interior of each minerate is a winding stair-case. The visitor can easily reach the top by the help of light penetrating from the windows opened out of the minerate in the midst of the upper half of each story. From the top of each of the mineres one can have a very beautiful view of the city of Agra and its surroundings.

In the middle of the platform is situated the Mausoleum which is in the form of an irregular octagon, the longest sides being

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about 141 feet and the height of the building is 92 feet and 3 inches and plinth being 2'-9". The arch point of the gate from the plinth is 66 feet and 6 inches.

It has a terraced roof having four pavilions at the corners and a magnificent dome, crowned with a pinnacle gilded with gold, in the centre.

The entire building is made of white marble inlaid with mosaics forming inscriptions and other decorations. A long vaulted and somewhat dark passage leads from the principal entrance of the Mausoleum to the crypt which contains the real tombs of the Emperor and the Empress.

The place where these Tombs are situated is altogether dark but which is shewn by means of lighted lamps.

In the upper story and above these Tombs are two fac-simile reproductions of them in exquisite workmanship greatly

admired ; the intricacies of fine art being is much lavished in embellishing this upper story.

The interior is more striking and magnificent than the exterior. The marble screens, and tombstones are one mass of mosaics. The tomb of the Empress is 10 feet in length, 7 feet in breadth and about 3 feet 6 inches in height. Another Tomb which is of the Emperor and lying to the left of this is 10 feet 6 inches in height, 7 feet in breadth and about 3 feet 9 inches in height. The tombs in the upper story are enclosed by marble screens which are a lasting proof of the skill of the architect. Each screen is about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet in breadth and about 3 inches in thickness. The diameter of the screen yards is about 27 feet.

The diameter of the dome from inside is 58 feet in the octagonal. The height of the

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Sepulchre from the garden level is 256 feet 3 inches and from the river level is about 361 feet. The pierced net-work in these screens are very skilfully done. The borders of these screens have inlaid mosaic work engraved upon them.

Around the Sepulchre is a double-storied gallery and a stair-case in the south-east corner leading to the upper part of the building, where in this upper gallery one is struck very much with the impressive silence of the place. The exact models in Alabaster of the screen work can be had at our Firm situated on the Drummond Road (No. 28) opposite the Agra College. Specimens of the Inlaid Mosaic work on the tombs in marble plates, boxes, and paper-weights can also be got at our shop at moderate prices.

There is also a gallery in a square form around the dome with a small dome-hall in each corner.

*See back of the title page.*

This gallery is entirely made up of mortar and is of the same shape as the lower one.

All the corners of the roof are arranged with four domes of small yet symmetrical height, in the centre being the fifth and the principal dome crowned with a pinnacle enamelled with gold. Each plinth of all the four domes is 6 feet high, the diameter 28 feet 3 inches and the height 44 feet. A description of the representation of which on the platform attached to the Response (Mukabla) is given above.

The height of the central dome from the roof to the base of the pinnacle 132 feet. is and the circumference 361 feet 9 inches. The distance of this to the smaller one is 8 feet 3 inches and that of the smaller one from one another is 69 feet. The distance of the smaller dome to the wall is 15 feet 3 inches.

Notwithstanding the material changes that are effected in the laying out of the

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.



garden, the Taj however appears, as if a mountain of white marble was rising mysteriously above the sombre and rich vegetation of the garden. "The solemnity of the scene can advantageously be compared with that of the Baptistry at Pisa."

"The Taj was built by Titans and finished by Jewellers is a faithful remark of Neber. The description is a true one. The visitor cannot help being struck with the very first view of the Taj. Repeated visits instead of rendering the sight less interesting as is generally the case, make the mind of the visitor more and more curious and only serve to bring some fresh beauty to light.

Native Princes sent precious stones which were to be found in their respective territories to the Emperor as presents and took nothing in return.

The Mausoleum required the constant labour of 20,000 workmen for 17 years, that is from 1630 to 1647, to be completed

*See back of the title page.*

## TERMS OF BUSINESS.

- (1.) Business hours from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M.
- (2.) The Firm remains open on Sundays too.
- (3.) Any work ordered to be made, half of its value must be paid in advance, and the other half on arrival of the article by V. P. P.
- (4.) Articles can be sent direct to every country throughout the world on receipt of Orders through our Agents

MESSRS KING KING & Co., BOMBAY.

- (5.) Tourists often refrain from making purchases of delicately made articles of Inlaid marble, Alabaster and Soapstone, under the idea that it might break in the long journey. To ensure safety we are prepared to give a printed guarantee to the effect that should the broken articles be returned to us immediately after its receipt, we will supply a new one like it. The extra-packing charge will of course be borne by the purchaser.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

Tourists ought therefore to be careful in exacting such guarantees before making any purchase else where.

(6.) Every coin in circulation will be accepted at the current rate of exchange.

We put our Trade mark on every article sold from our Firm and Buyers should reject any article not marked. The caution is necessary on account of the numerous imitations and infringements which are continually cropping up.

We are determined to put a stop to these infringements of Name and Patterns, and will immediately take proceedings against any offenders. We are also desirous to do every thing in our power to increase, if possible, the reputation we have earned by honest work, fair dealing and self-respect, and they have to return thanks for the confidence and trust bestowed upon them.

*See back of the title page.*

## AGRA INLAID ARTICLES FIRM

(ESTABLISHED IN 1831.)

DO NOT FAIL TO SEE.

(Beware to purchase the Inlaid marble Articles painted with certain colours under neath of the inlaid pieces from general Stone Merchants here.)

Some shop-keepers of Out-Stations purchase the Marble Inlaid articles of the second and third grade from here, and sell them as their own at first class rates. Articles of Inlaid Marble, Alabaster, and soap-stone are made only at Agra, and nowhere else throughout India. Every one knows that the articles are always got cheaper in their own mother cities. All Tourists should inspect our Firm before purchasing elsewhere.

Tajs, commonly sold by all are not made in scale but thy only preserve order.

Recently established shops clam to be 'older than they are as the very nature of their Testimonials would show up. Hence their little experience in workmanship.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

TO  
ADORN YOUR DRAWING ROOM

USE THE

**INLAIN MARBLE, ALABASTER**

AND

**SOAP-STONE ARTICLES**

THE BEST AND WITHOUT PAINT, TO BE  
PROCURED ONLY

FROM

**NUTHOO RAM & SONS,**

SCULPTORS NO. 28 DRUMMOND  
ROAD.

**OPPOSITE THE AGRA COLLEGE.**

*See back of the title page.*

Nuthu Ram & Sons beg respectfully to inform residents and visitors to Agra, that they have always a large stock of Inlaid Marble, Alabaster, and Soap-stone work on view in their premises at fixed prices ; and they are ready to execute all orders with which they may be favored, with promptitude and care.

They also prepare monuments in Marble or Sand-stone, and great care is taken to cut the inscriptions neatly and accurately.

In proof of their success in re-producing the graceful, and intricate patterns so much admired on the Taj and other Imperial buildings in Agra, they venture to remind the public, that they have received nine Medals and hundreds of Certificates from nearly all the Great Exhibitions within the last Century viz.—

#### MEDALS.

—0 —

- |                                                    |      |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. The Great Exhibition London,                    | 1851 |
| 2. Oudh Exhibition Lucknow,                        | 1864 |
| 3. Central Provinces Exhibition Nagpur,            | 1865 |
| 4. Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition<br>Agra. | 1867 |

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

- |    |                                               |      |
|----|-----------------------------------------------|------|
| 5. | The International Exhibition London,          | 1874 |
| 6. | The Imperial Assemblage Delhi,                | 1877 |
| 7. | The Jeypur Exhibition,                        | 1883 |
| 8. | The Lucknow Exhibition,                       | 1885 |
| 9. | The Colonial and Indian Exhibition<br>London, | 1886 |

And specimens of their work are invariably sent to all Continental Exhibitions. Cheap and worthless imitations of Inlaid Marble work can of course be procured in some other shops, but Nuthu Ram and Sons' reputation precludes them from manufacturing such articles.

**COPIES OF SELECTED CERTIFICATES.**

*(Exhibition of the works of Industry of all  
Nations 1851.*

EXHIBITION, HYDE PARK, LONDON,)

*15th October, 1851.*

I hereby certify that Her Majesty's Commissioners upon the award of the Jurors have presented a prize Medal to The Honorable East India Company for an Inlaid Chess-table shewn in the Exhibition.

(Sd). ALBERT,

*President of the Royal Commisioner.*

Certified that the certificate was presented by me to Nuthoo Ram residing in the suburb of Gokulpooora City of Agra pursuant to directions conveyed in the Commisioner's letter No. 237 dated the 6th August 1853, and also in a letter from the Junior Secretary to Board of Revenue Calcutta to the Commissioner of Agra No. 762

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dated the 7th June 1853 in the Magistrate's Court Room at Agra on Tuesday the 9th August 1853.

(Sd.) M. R. GUBBINS,

*Magistrate and Collector.*

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AGRA ;

*6th August 1853.*

I hereby certify that Inlaid Chess Table for which the Prize Medal noticed in this Certificate was given, was manufactured by Nuthoo Ram, son of Than Singh a resident of Agra.

(Sd.) W. H. TYLER,

*President of the Local  
Committee of the Exhibition  
of 1851 Agra.*

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AGRA ;

*8th November, 1886.*

Nuthoo Ram's Screens were much admired at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, South

*See back of the title page.*

Kensington 1886, and I have much pleasure in recommending him to the public as a good workman and one who adheres to Indian Art.

(Sd.) J. W. TYLER,  
*C. I. E.*

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AGRA ;

15th November, 1886.

I have known Nuthoo Ram for very many years and have always found his work good and reliable. I consider him the best man in Agra from whom to purchase Inlaid Marble work.

(Sd.) W. KAYE, c., s.  
*Commissioner.*

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AGRA ;

16th November, 1886.

Nuthoo Ram is much the best of the Agra Inlaid Marble workers. His work is always good and his prices moderate.

(Sd.) H. B. FINLAY,  
*Collector.*

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

**LETTERS OF SAFE ARRIVAL OF THE IN-  
LAID ARTICLES &C. FROM UP-COUN-  
TRIES.**

26 LOWNDES SQUARE LONDON, S. W.

*Tuesday, March 31st 1884.*

**NUTHOO RAM.**

The Alabaster Screens arrived safely about a fortnight ago, and I enclose, separately the certificate you ask, I also enclose a Bank Note for Rs. 10 in payment of packing charges.

(Sd). H. TUFNELL.

No. 2.

LONDON ENGLAND ;

*August 27th, 1888.*

**NUTHOO RAM,**

*Agra.*

SIR,

I beg to inform you that the things mentioned in your letter of 2nd June last reached me safely and that I am perfectly satisfied with these as well as with what I had before, these

*See back of the title page.*

things were all packed so carefully and well that no breakage occurred in any, these things are all much admired. I hope your business in this line will continue to prosper.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd). W. M. CLAY,

*Parliament Sr.*

No. 3.

MOORFIELD CROSSLAND MOOR HUDDERFIELD ;

*June 25th, 1889.*

TO NUTHOO RAM,

*Sculptor, Agra.*

DEAR SIR,

Many thanks for the Screen which I received safe and sound last week. I sent you from London a Post Office order for £3 s.1 (Three pounds and one shilling) which in rupees will cover the value of 45 Rs. The Agra Post Office will advice you of its arrival, please send me a receipt for that amount and oblige.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) NORMAN TAYLOR.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

No. 4.

ADHURST ST. MARY, PETERSFIELD ;

*May 6th, 1889.*

MR. NUTHOO RAM.

DEAR SIR,

The round dish has arrived safely and I like it much but I do not understand why after you wrote to me asking me to allow you to inlay the lip you have not inlaid it : at the same time I do not think it is at all bad as it is. You have not however yet sent me the model of the Summan Burj Bath which is after all what I am most anxious for ; please send that quickly and I will tell Messrs. Grindlay Groom and Co. of Bombay to pay you for both of them.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) J. BONHAM CARTER,

No. 5.

ADHURST ST. MARY, PETERSFIELD ;

*December 14th, 1889.*

MR. NUTHOO RAM.

DEAR SIR,

The Model Bath has come and I now send you a draft for nine hundred and five Rupees out

*See back of the title page.*

of Rs. 970 I owe you, the remaining Rs. 65 I will send you when I hear from you how it is you have not sent me a certificate from the Commissioner as to the accuracy of the copy.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) J. BONHAM CARTER.

No. 6.

5TH BUCHANAN STREET, GLASGOW ;

*April 17th, 1890*

NUTHOO RAM.

DEAR SIR,

The plaque forwarded to the order of Lieut. Ritchie arrived safely.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) N. B. STEWART.

No. 7.

KRUGER & Co.

RANGOON ;

*31st October, 1884.*

To

NUTHOO RAM,

*Agra.*

I am in receipt of of your favor of 14th from which I learn that you despatched the Taj Model to Messrs. Ernsthausen and Oisterly at Calcutta, which firms since informed me that the case had

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arrived. I have instructed Messrs. MacKenzie Lyall & Co. of Calcutta, to remit to you the amount of your Bill Rupees four hundred and ten and four annas. Please send me a receipt for the money as soon as you receive it.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) J. F. BROCHHOLTZ.

No. 8.

AGRA :

*1st April, 1891.*

I have this day purchased goods from Mr. Nuthoo Ram and am well pleased with them, also purchased some two years since and they arrived in good order.

(Sd.) MATT CARLINGTON,  
*New York.*

No. 9.

LONDON, *13th April, 1892.*

To

NUTHOO RAM.

DEAR SIR,

I write to say all the articles you sent me on February 9th have just been unpacked and

*See back of the title page.*

are in perfect condition ; not one of them being injured in the smallest degree.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) MRS. R. S. HENDERSON,  
*Brown's St. George Hotel*  
*Dover-Street*  
*and Albemarle Street London W.*  
No. 10.

FERNLEIGH PARGUTON S. DEVON, ENGLAND ;  
1st October 1891.

SIR,

In march last when at Agra I bought a Rs. 30 model of Taj Mahal which I brought safely to England, but when putting it together I broke two of the minarets and one lower dombe. I am now sending these articles back to you please make new ones exactly the same with the same bits of brass with screws in the bottoms and send them direct to Messrs. Temp-ler Ferneleigh Parguton S. Devon England. I return to India this month write to me Char-gold Rathabari Post office Sylhet and send me the piece I will pay you.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd). A. H. TEMPLER,

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.



No. 11.

MELBOURNE :

*3rd February, 1892.*

MR. NUTHOO RAM,

DEAR SIR,

As promised I write to let you know that the things which I bought from you when in Agra reached here safely.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) JOHN L. WEBB.

No. 12.

ESKDALE WIMBLEDON PARK SURRAY ENGLAND ;

*8th April 1892.*

DEAR SIR,

On opening the case of goods I bought of you on the 25th of February last, on my arrival home yesterday I found every thing all right except the small soapstone dish which unfortunately was smashed to pieces.

I see by your bill that this article (the price of which was I think Re. 1-8) was not charged for and so I have nothing to complain of.

*See back of the title page.*

You will be glad to hear that my friends  
admire your work very much.

Yours Truly,  
(Sd). GEORGE WHITFIELD.

No. 13.

TRAFALGAR BUILDINGS 1, NORTHUMBERLAND  
AVENUE CHARMING CROSS LONDON ;

*22nd April, 1892.*

MESSRS. NUTHOO RAM AND SONS,

*28 Drummond Road,*

*Agra.*

DEAR SIRs,

I have very much pleasure in acknowledging  
the safe receipt of the model of the Taj and  
piece of soap-stone carving which I purchased  
of you. The things were beautifully packed and  
have reached in perfect condition.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) A. CHARLES CCODD.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

No. 14.

31st March, 1892.

WALTER A. WOOD,

MOWING AND REAPING MACHINE COMPANY

AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OFFICE NOS. 31

TO 37 BEDFORD ST. NORTH

MELBOURNE.

NUTHOO RAM,

*Sculptor,*

*28 Drummond Road,*

*Agra India.*

DEAR SIRs,

When I was at your place in April last I purchased from you several inlaid plaques. Tajs and Native slippers all made in marble. You packed them for me very nicely indeed and they arrived at Melbourne in first class order and have been very much admired. I would be much obliged if you would send me 2 Tajs made so as the pillars &c. will screw on and two pairs of native marble slippers. I think I paid for the Tajs that I purchased from you, 14 Rupees. At all events I want two good ones, and hope that you will use the same good care and see that

*See back of the title page.*

they are securely packed, as I understand you guarantee such articles to arrive safely at their destination. The slippers I would like of medium size. I think those that I purchased from you cost 3 Rupees per pair. I would also like you to send me about one dozen of those tinny little ornaments that you stick all around the Taj. I don't know what you call them but they are very small, in fact I think the smallest part about the work of art. You can send them to Messrs. Macbeth Brothers & Co., of 44 Tamarind Lane, Bombay and request them to forward same on to me, which they will do. Send your invoice direct to me to the above address and I will send you a post office order for the amount ; kindly acknowledge receipt and oblige.

Yours very truly,  
(Sd.) W. B. VEIRS.

No. 15.

15 FULWOOD PARK, LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND,  
*9th January, 1891.*

The articles arrived in good order except one a small oblong stone with an Inlaid snake on it. The corner was clipped.

(Sd.) E. L. SANDBACH.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

No. 16.

SCINDIA PAPER MILLS Co., LIMITED GWALIOR.

1st February, 1892.

LALA NUTHOO RAM,

*Sculptor Agra.*

DEAR SIR,

The small model of the Taj Mahal which I purchased from you on the 20th November 1891 has I am happy to say (thanks to your most careful packing) reached its destination, (Scotland) in perfect condition.

If possible you might send me by return of post the dimensions of the Taj Mahal itself and also let me know to what scale the model is built.

I shall always recommend you whenever I have the opportunity to do so.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd.) L. C. BARCLAY

No. 17.

Ess

Sir,

The inlaid marble ph

*See back of*

order of Mrs. Knaudz Essen Ruhr Germany  
arrived safely

Yours Truly,  
(Sd.) KNAUDZ.

No.

92 OXFORD GARDENS, W.

LONDON.

6th July, 1892.

### NUTHOO RAM.

In December 1888 or about that you made for me a model of the Taj in Alabaster which cost Rs. 90 on a scale of one inch to 25 feet. I shall be obliged if you will make and pack and despatch to me another such model.

If you will write to me at the above address, mention the cost. I will send it to you, you may if you choose put my work in hand. You may also mention the cost of Taj in marble.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) W. M. CLAY,  
(LATE B. C. S.,)

is our Trade Mark.

*Extract from note printed on Model of Taj*

This Model is on a scale of one inch to 25 feet ; it was made for me by one Nuthoo Ram a skilful lapidary of Agra, who holds many testimonials for his inlaid and other works among which is one signed "Albert, President of Royal commission, Exhibition, Hyde Park, London, 17th October 1851" and a Medal of the London International Exhibition 1874. The Model is of Alabaster ; it cost 90 Rupees ; the value of a rupee is now about 1s. 4d.

(Sd.) W. M. CLAY.

No. 19.

LEEMCULE HOUSE ;

22nd August, 1892.

MR. NUTHOO RAM,

*Sculptor Agra.*

SIR,

I am happy to tell you that all the articles I bought in your shop last winter season reached my residence in the best possible condition ; they are very much admired and I am glad to possess

*See back of the title page.*

them. With my best wishes for your prosperity and kind greeting.

(Sd.) COUNTESS RECHTEREN,  
*Limpurg, Holland.*

No. 20.

*Answer to Post Card No. 753.*

PARIS ;  
*2nd Sept. 1892.*

NUTHOO-RAM,  
*Sculptor Agra,*  
*N. W. P. British India.*

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your Postal Card No. 753 dated July 31st in which you inquired about the articles I bought from you last winter. I am happy to let you know that they have safely arrived and in good order and conditions.

I remain,

Sir,

Yours Truly,

(Sd.) D. FRICOT,

C/o. JAS LEMAITRE Esq.,  
*20 Bd. St. Michel Paris.*

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.



No. 21.

DENVER COLORADO U. S. A.

15th September, 1892

MR. NUTHOO RAM,

*Agra.*

DEAR SIR,

I take pleasure in informing you that the Model of the Taj in Alabaster that I bought at your shop last February came through in perfect order owing to your careful packing. I had no trouble in putting it together. It is greatly admired. I shall hope to see you at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago next year.

Yours Truly,

(Sd.) B. F. WOODWARD.

No. 22.

UNION CLUB NEW YORK CITY ;

12th September, 1892.

NUTHOO RAM,

*Sculptor.*

The articles which I purchased of you came safely with the exception of a pair of carved stone slipper which were broken.

(Sd.) FREDRIK. D. THOMPSON,

U. S. A.

*See back of the title page.*

No. 23.

MESSRS. NUTHOO RAM & SONS.

The things send to me on the 30th November  
1892 arrived safely in Frankfort.

(Sd.) ALBERT METZLER,  
18 *Gallusstrasse* Frankfort  
*Germany.*

No. 24.

14 BROOKESIDE CAMBRIDGE,  
*March 14th, 1893.*

GENTLEMEN,

The carved Alabaster plate forwarded by you  
has arrived safely, thanks to your careful packing.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) EDWARD T. DIXON.

No. 25.

SAN PATRIZIS ROMA,  
*23rd July, 1893.*

MESSRS. NUTHOO RAM & SONS.

DEAR SIR,

The article sent from your studio and address-  
ed to the Rev. Prior Glynn Saint Patricks, Rome,  
has arrived here quite safely. The great care

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.

with which it was packed was guarantee of its safe arrival even had it to go the round of the world ten times over.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Sd.) P. PIALUGH U. S. A.

No. 26.

Mrs. Viment Ridaz writes to say the model of the Taj arrived yesterday. It was most carefully packed and every thing in good order.

(Sd.) L. C. R.,  
5 Ennis More Gardens,  
Dover, Kent England.

No. 27.

TRIVILLIAN HOUSE ST. COLUMB MINET CORNWALL,  
21st October, 1893.

MESSRS. NUTHOO RAM & SONS,  
Agra.

GENTLEMEN,

The two articles sent by you from Major Bennet have duly arrived in good order.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sd.) NEGULLY BENNET.

*See back of the title page.*

No. 28.

NOUSHERA, PUNJAB,

*30th October, 1893.*

SIR,

I write to inform you that I have heard from England that the two models of the Taj purchased by me from you on 30th August last, as per your Bill No. 785, have arrived safely and uninjured in England.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) V. RIVAZ, COLONEL.

No. 29.

Mehrmals Cei Nuthoo Ram & Sons gekaufte Marmorsachen sind jedes Mal in Cestem Zustande in Deutschland eingetroffen, was die sorgfältige Packung der Sachen Ceweist.

L. STANGEN,

*Berlin,**W. Mohrenstr 10.*

Printed at "Ornamental Job Press,"—Agra.

Our every article bears our Trade Mark.



ESTABLISHED IN 1831.

